

# GC Actions from 2019 passed motions

## 1. Motion : Clarification regarding under 16's elected to General Council

*This Annual General Meeting agrees to replace SO.26 (ii) \* with:*

*Any individual member of the organisation may stand for election to General Council in the lay category as described in SO.26 (v)(a). If any candidate under 16 is elected they shall not be eligible to sit as a General Council member and will instead be appointed as an observer to General Council. The General Council member's place that they vacate shall remain empty for 2 years unless one of the following applies:*

*a) The under 16 observer resigns, in which case the standard procedure for replacing a General Council member as laid down in the Articles of Association shall apply*

*b) The observer turns 16, at which point they take the General Council member's place that has remained empty since their election as an observer.*

*Not more than 5 under 16 observers may fill these places at any one time.*

Actions taken:

- Our Standing Orders have been changed in accordance with the motion, giving greater clarity for future elections.

## 4. Motion: Remote Participation

*This Annual General Meeting notes the 2016 motion passed to allow AGM participation without physical attendance.*

*This Annual General Meeting also notes the 2017 motion that was intended to take the 2016 motion in parts so delegates could choose the scope of the changes. Due to insufficient attendance the 2017 motion could not be acted upon but an indicative vote was held and the results are noted below.*

*This Annual General Meeting further notes that General Council Plans for remote participation were put on hold pending the trial of the re-launched Annual Gathering in 2018.*

*This Annual General Meeting therefore agrees to enable remote participation through allowing proxy voting as a mechanism to enable groups and districts to vote in advance.*

Actions taken:

- Set up a working group consisting of members from General Council, Standing Orders Committee and Scottish Committee to make remote participation possible for AGM 2020.
- The working group organised a second hub in Glasgow Scotland which would fully participate in discussion and voting alongside Annual Gathering in Kent. As a result of the Covid19 pandemic, the physical AGM and hub in Glasgow could not take place as planned.
- AGM 2020 will take place online, with all delegates being encouraged to vote via proxy. The AGM will take place online because of Covid19.

- We intend to have proxy voting at AGM 2021.

## **5. Motion Increase in Group Registration Fees**

*This Annual General Meeting notes that:*

*Since 2016, Group Registration fees have been £125 per group plus £12.50 per child.*

*That in 2017 a motion proposed that future rises in group registration should be incremental to reflect rises in costs.*

*That most of the core infrastructure costs are staffing costs.*

*And agrees that:*

*Groups fees should be increased annually by Average Weekly Earnings as measured by the Office for National Statistics for the previous year, rounded down to the nearest 10p with effect from 1 Jan 2020 and on 1st Jan each year thereafter.*

*And agrees that:*

*Group fees should be increased as a one off in 2020 to “catch up”.*

*Groups should pay £135.20 per group and £13.50 per child from 1 Jan 2020 onwards.*

*And agrees that:*

*This AGM re-states the principle that no group or district should close due to inability to pay their registration fees.*

*This AGM encourages those districts which are able, to continue to make solidarity payments in addition to their registration fees to help ensure that no group closes due to lack of funds.*

Actions taken:

- Group Registration fees were raised from 1 Jan 2020 as outlined in the motion.

## **6. Motion: Increase in Membership Fees**

*This Annual General Meeting notes that:*

*Since 2013, individual membership fees have been £30 (full fee) and £12 (unwaged).*

*That most of the core infrastructure costs are staffing costs.*

*That a third of our active members are unwaged.*

*And agrees that:*

*Individual membership (full) fees should be increased annually by Average Weekly Earnings as measured by the Office for National Statistics for the previous year, rounded down to the nearest 10p, with effect from 1 July 2019 and on the 1st July each year thereafter. Unwaged fees should remain static at £12.*

*And agrees that:*

*Individual membership fees should rise as a one off in 2019 to “catch up” to £34.40.*

Actions taken:

- Membership fees were raised on 1st July 2019 as outlined in the motion.
- Membership fees were raised on 1st July 2020 in line with increase in Average Weekly Earnings as outlined in the motion.

## **8. Motion Accessible Democracy**

*This AGM asks General Council to work to produce a group night pack to help make motion making fun and accessible. It should tell groups how to word motions and give ideas on activities to help come up with motion ideas. We note that General Council may form an interested committee of leaders and young people to carry out this motion as they are often pressed for resource. Any activity pack should contain a jargon buster and also have fun activities to teach young people about the democracy of the Woodcraft Folk and why it is important and how it works.*

Actions taken:

- In August 2020 General Council are launching monthly themed Fireside Chats online, as a space for young people to discuss and influence how we grow and develop as a movement.
- In order to achieve Woodcraft Folk's Strategic plan (2018-2025) General Council have agreed 11 strategic changes (agreed in February 2020): including *Ensure that structures throughout Woodcraft Folk are optimised to engage young people in participatory governance*. General Council will be looking at ways of optimising online opportunities for youth empowerment, and develop our governance to be more youth-led.

## **9. Motion Participation of all groups**

*This AGM agrees that the 2020 annual gathering is held at the Kent County Showground alongside the Common Ground pre-camp. That future annual gatherings are held alongside the pre-camp for any National/International camp. If in any one year, there is no such camp, the location for annual gathering should be determined looking at cost and avoiding locations where annual gatherings have been held in recent years.*

Actions taken:

- Until Covid19 cancelled the event, AGM 2020 was intended to take place at Kent County Showground alongside Common Ground pre-camp.
- With the work that has been done to develop AGM hubs (see actions taken for motion 4 above), we will use proxy voting to make AGM more accessible for groups and districts from all areas of the country.

## **10. Motion: Action on Climate Change**

*This AGM agrees that all national and regional camps should be using sustainable energy sources to produce 100% of the electricity used on all camps as soon as possible. We propose that a lot more research should be done to explore alternatives to using gas for cooking.*

Actions taken:

- For VCamp2019 new solar infrastructure was invested in at Woodcraft Folk's Biblins campsite to ensure the entire camp could be run on solar power. Biblins now has the equipment to run all future camps there on solar.

- The Common Ground team have appointed a sustainability team to help ensure the camp is run as sustainably as possible, and ensure all centres have sustainability in mind when developing their programme.
- Woodcraft Folk's Royal Academy of Engineering project will support engineers to support the use of renewable energy at our centres

## **12. Motion Badge Work and accessibility**

*This AGM notes that the scouts and the guides are much better at making their badges fun and relevant than the Woodcraft Folk. This AGM agrees that existing badges should be updated and new ones developed to reflect the modern world we live in and equip out young people with life skills they need.*

*This AGM recognises that the attainment of badges can sometimes be linked to the achievement of tasks and so is not always accessible to members who are unable to perform those tasks, no matter how hard they are trying. To make sure we welcome and work with all children this annual gathering would like it acknowledged that a child may earn a badge through their efforts, regardless of end achievement. Those who try their hardest to contribute should be recognised as producing the end result.*

*We note that General Council may form an interested committee of leaders and young people to carry out this motion as they are often pressed for resource.*

*All current badges should continue in circulation until new badges or updated guidance on badge activities can be issued.*

Actions taken:

- General Council discussed Woodcraft Folk's badge offer at meetings in October and November 2019. Since the Covid19 pandemic no further time has been found to develop Woodcraft Folk's badge offer.

## **Emergency motion 1: The Environmental Emergency**

*This Annual General Meeting notes that, on 6 May 2019, the United Nations published its "Global Assessment Report" - a comprehensive health check on the state of our planet. The stark message is that the world's life support systems, on which humans depend, are in trouble. Remedies are possible but they require urgent, transformative actions.*

*This meeting additionally notes that despite the environmental emergency facing the world's population, including the threat to those living in the UK, not enough is being done by the adults entrusted with making policy decision to address the crisis.*

*This Annual General Meeting therefore instructs General Council, as a matter of urgency, to:*

- 1. Declare an environmental emergency*
- 2. Establish and support a working group to provide educational information about the environmental crisis and how to talk about it.*
- 3. Further task the working group to provide information and support on how groups and young people can effectively campaign on this issue.*

Actions taken:

- Woodcraft Folk declared an environmental emergency in June 2019.
- Decarbonisation groups have been established at both Lockerbrook and Biblins to reduce their impact on the environment
- Funding has been successfully sought from the Royal Academy of Engineering to fund the Kids Field project, training engineers in youth work and public engagement skills enabling them to deliver climate science education and share engineering solutions to the climate emergency
- Woodcraft Folk has partnered other IFM-SEI organisations in delivering the Resist: Global Climate Divide project
- Woodcraft Folk joined 'Teach the Future', including supporting young members to attend a Parliamentary reception to lobby MPs
- Funding has been successfully sought from the National Association for Environmental Education to support peer education around climate science and our response to the climate emergency.